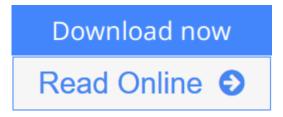


Killer Instinct: How Two Young Producers Took on Hollywood and Made the Most Controversial Film of the Decade

By Jane Hamsher



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Fresh out of film school, aspiring producer Jane Hamsher and her partner Don Murphy stumbled onto a screenplay by a geeky filmmaker-wannabe named Quentin Tarantino. For \$10,000, Jane and Don optioned *Natural Born Killers* and set off on a two-year roller coaster ride no classroom could have prepared them for. With an outrageous cast of real-life characters including Oliver Stone, Woody Harrelson, Robert Downey, Jr., and Juliette Lewis--along with a slew of film-crew leeches and behind-the-scenes studio pitbulls--*Killer Instinct* rivals the most mesmerizing, gut-wrenching movie scenes. A wild joyride like no other, Hamsher's tale provides a fresh, insider's perspective on stardom and the real balance of power in Hollywood.



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

At the beginning of her tale of the making of a big Hollywood picture, Hamsher finds herself in her bathrobe with the flu and not enough money to pay the rent. She goes on to chronicle the misadventures of her life with business partner Don Murphy as they try to succeed as film producers in Hollywood shortly after graduating from the University of Southern California film school. They live on their passion for movies and lunches with people who may or, more likely, may not be able to help them advance their careers. Finally, their work pays off as they buy the script for Natural Born Killers from then unknown Quentin Tarantino and convince Oliver Stone to direct it, resulting in one of the most controversial films ever made?and a great success for the young producers. Hamsher's style is gritty and to the point, she drops names, and she is unabashedly critical of the Hollywood power players and the men's world she encounters. The reader should know a bit about the film industry before reading this volume, which ultimately would make an interesting film. For academic or public libraries with film collections.?Lisa N. Johnston, Sweet Briar Coll. Lib., Va. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

This lean, mean, scabrously honest account of the making of Natural Born Killers amply proves the truism that moviemaking is a ``controlled accident." What goes on behind the scenes of certain movies is often a better, more involving story than what appears on-screen. Such is certainly the case with the notorious Natural Born Killers. One of Quentin Tarantino's early scripts, it was optioned by two ambitious recent filmschool graduates, Hamsher and Don Murphy. The script was optioned when Tarantino was still an unknown; later, a suddenly hot Tarantino decided that he didn't want the film to be made. His substantial efforts to stop Murphy and Hamsher (including bad-mouthing the pair to studios) were trumped, however, when Oliver Stone decided that he wanted to make this his next film. And that's when things really spun out of control, including long, drug-fueled location-scouting trips, a prison riot during shooting, and innumerable backstabbings. Stone's preferred modus operandi involves elaborate mindgames, playing his crew members off against each other--purportedly to energize their creativity. The results were predictably chaotic and venomous. Rarely has a book by a Hollywood player (albeit a minor one) been so confessional and recklessly revealing, detailing just how mean and twisted, petty and vindictive, the movie industry can be: "The world of Hollywood . . . belonged to the cantankerous sons of bitches who were willing to risk any humiliation, broach any authority, get on the phone and scream until they got what they wanted." Hamsher freely burns bridges left and right, viciously (though apparently justifiably) damning Tarantino, sideswiping Stone, lambasting agents and studio execs. Forget lunch. After this book, she'll be lucky to do a snack in Hollywood. But her recklessness is our gain: This compelling look behind the curtain should help dispel forever any fond illusions about the "magic" of movies. (35 b&w photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

Advance Praise for Killer Instinct:

"This lean, mean, scabrously honest account of the making of *Natural Born Killers* amply proves the truism that moviemaking is a 'controlled accident'. . . . Rarely has a book by a Hollywood player . . . been so confessional and recklessly revealing. . . . This compelling look behind the curtain should help dispel forever any fond illusions about the 'magic' of movies."

--Kirkus Reviews

- "Few books capture the roller-coaster ride of trying to get a movie made as enjoyably as this one."
- --Roger Avary, cowriter, Pulp Fiction
- "Fast, funny and horrifically honest, this is Hollywood from the locusts' point of view, shot through a jeweled and compounded eye. . . . A terrific book."
- --Alan Moore, author, The Watchmen and V for Vendetta
- "Drugs! Sex! Madness! Movie Stars! *Killer Instinct* is a screamingly funny, seriously terrifying saga of two naifs who outfox the psychotic dons who run the film business. . . . With this book, Jane Hamsher elevates the Hollywood tell-all to a literary art form."
- --Jerry Stahl, author, Permanent Midnight
- "Fax and copy machines are working overtime in Hollywood with galleys of *Killer Instinct*. . . . Gossipy . . . [and] filled with wicked wit. . . . Hamsher's gonzo take on *NBK*'s evolution offers an insider's view of showbiz egos."
- --Time

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Rosemarie Sanders:

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Palmer Schwartz:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book Killer Instinct: How Two Young Producers Took on Hollywood and Made the Most Controversial Film of the Decade it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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